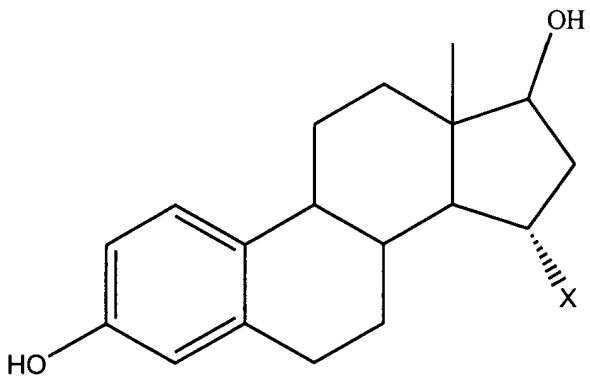
1. (Currently amended) A compound according to the structure:



where X is $(CH_2)_mCOR$

R is ~~H,~~ a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group optionally substituted with at least one halogen group; and m is from 0-5, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or polymorphs thereof.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group optionally substituted with at least one halogen group and m is from 0-2.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is methyl, ethyl, propyl, iso-propyl, butyl, iso-butyl, pentyl, neo-pentyl or CH_2CH_2F; and m is 0.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 3 wherein m is 0 and R is methyl, ethyl or CH_2CH_2F.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 4 wherein R is methyl.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 4 wherein R is ethyl.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 4 wherein R is CH_2CH_2F.

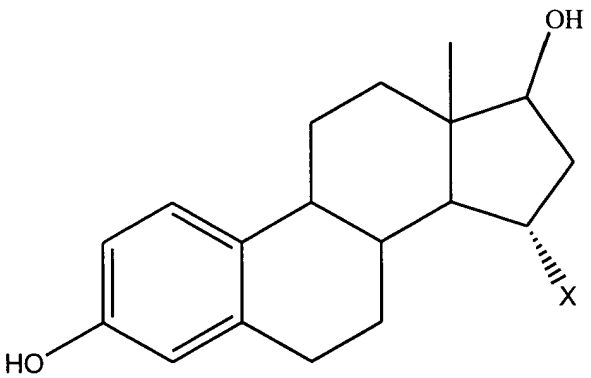
8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is CH_2CHF_2.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is CH_2CF_3.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one F group.

11. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~10~~ R is methyl, ethyl or CH_2CH_2F.

12. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of an effective amount of a compound for alleviating the symptomology of menopause in a patient, said compound having the structure:



where X is $(CH_2)_mCOR$

R is H or a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group, optionally substituted with at least one halogen group; and m is from 0-5, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or additive.

13. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 12 wherein R is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group optionally substituted with at least one fluorine group; and
m is from 0-2.

14. (Original) The composition according to claim 12 wherein R is methyl, ethyl, propyl, iso-propyl, butyl, iso-butyl, pentyl, neo-pentyl, CH_2CH_2F or CH_2CF_3 and m is 0.

15. (Original) The composition according to claim 14 wherein m is 0 and R is methyl, ethyl or CH_2CH_2F.

16. (Original) The composition according to claim 14 wherein R is methyl.

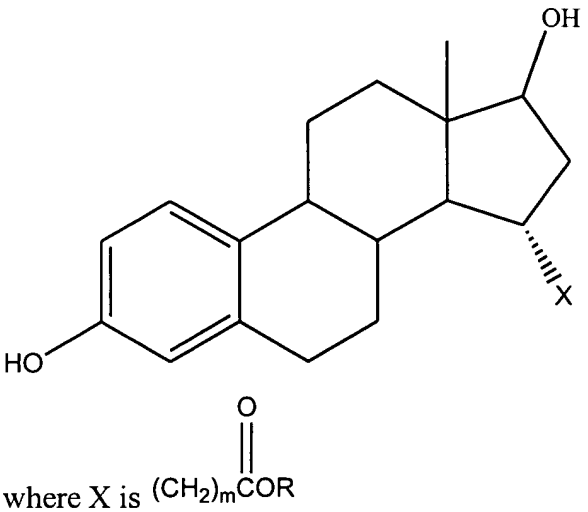
17. (Original) The composition according to claim 14 wherein R is ethyl.

18. (Original) The composition according to claim 14 wherein R is CH_2CH_2F.

19. (Original) The composition according to claim 12 in topical dosage form.

20. (Original) The composition according to claim 12 formulated as a vaginal cream, gel, lotion or suppository.

21. (Currently amended) A method for alleviating the symptoms of menopause, comprising administering to a patient in need of therapy a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to the structure:



where X is $(CH_2)_mCOR$

R is H or a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group, optionally substituted with at least one halogen group; and m is from 0-5, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or additive.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein R is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group or a CH_2CH_2F group; and m is from 0-2.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein said symptom of menopause is selected from the group consisting of bone loss associated with osteoporosis and vaginal dyspareunia.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein said symptom of menopause is vaginal dyspareunia and said composition is administered to the patient's vaginal membranes.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein R is methyl.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein R is ethyl.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein R is CH_2CH_2F.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein R is CH_2CHF_2.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein R is CH_2CF_3.

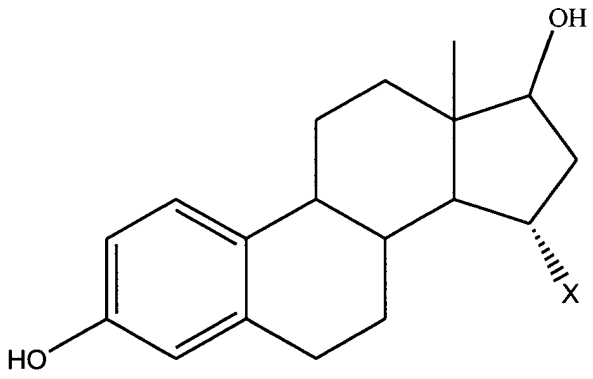
30. (Original) The method according to claim 24 wherein said composition is administered as a vaginal cream, gel, lotion or suppository.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein said composition is administered within the patient's body from an implant.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein said symptom of menopause is bone loss associated with osteoporosis and said composition is administered within the patient's body from an implant.

The following claims are new:

33. (New) A compound according to the structure:



where X is $(CH_2)_mCOR$

R is H; and

m is from 0, 2, 3, 4, or 5, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or polymorphs thereof.

34. (New) The compound according to claim 33 wherein m is 0.

35. (New) The compound according to claim 33 wherein m is 2, 3, 4, or 5.